

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 ACDA-05 SAB-01 /070 W

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R 271603Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3102

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL TABRIZ

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 2679

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 2-27-76

TAGS: PINS PFOR IZ SY

SUBJECT: SYRIA ACCUSED OF HELPING KURDISH REBELS

1. LOCAL PRO-IRAQI DAILY, BEIRUT, IN LENGTHY ARTICLE FEB 26, VEHMENTLY ATTACKED SYRIAN GOVT FOR ITS ALLEGED AID TO BARZANI'S KURDS AND FOR "PLACING ITS CAPABILITIES ON SIDE OF IMPERIALISM." ARTICLE CONTENDS SARG IS TRYING TO PREVENT IRAQ FROM CONTRIBUTING TO ARAB WAR EFFORT WHILE ASSAD ENGAGES IN "DEFEATIST SOLUTIONS" TO ME CRISIS. CRITICIZING SYRIA AS "INCAPABLE OF LIBERATING ITS (OWN NATIONAL SOIL," BEIRUT FURTHER DENOUNCES ALLEGED AID TO KURDISH INSURGENTS AS "SUPPORT FOR IMPERIALIST ROLE PLAYED BY IRANIAN REACTION" AND CHARGES SARG WITH "COMMITTING NATIONAL TREASON AND STABBING NATIONAL CAUSE IN HEART."

2. BEIRUT CITES SEVERAL "PROOFS" OF SYRIAN AID TO KURDS, INCLUDING PROVISION OF WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS, GRANTING SANCTUARY TO KURDISH REBELS INSIDE SYRIAN TERRITORY, AND FACILITATING MAIL DELIVERY TO KURDISH-HELD AREAS IN NORTHERN IRAQ. AMONG MORE

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SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS, BEIRUT CITES: (A) SEPT 27, 1974 ATTEMPT BY

TWO VEHICLES (ONE BELONGING TO SYRIAN ARMY) TO APPROACH JREIBA BORDER POST "TO LAUNCH AGGRESSION AGAINST IT" AND LATER EFFORT SAME DAY BY MIXED FORCE OF SYRIAN BORDER PATROL AND KURDS TO STEAL TOWN'S CATTLE; (B) NOV 1974 INCIDENT IN WHICH KURDS ALLEGEDLY INFILTRATED FROM SYRIA TO PLANT MINES INSIDE IRAQI BORDER AND OPENED FIRE ON IRAQI BORDER TOWNS OF KELHI AND MASKEH, KILLING AND WOULDING NUMBER OF CIVILIANS; AND (C) CREATION BY SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE OF SPECIAL CAMPS TO TRAIN KURDS IN SABOTAGE TACTICS IN RABEA AND MOUZAN AREAS.

3. COMMENT: BEIRUT ARTICLE APPEARS ONLY FEW DAYS AFTER SADDAM HUSSEIN, IN INTERVIEW WITH AL AHRAM, ALLEGED THAT "A CERTAIN ARAB POWER" WAS ASSISTING KURDISH REBELS. WOULD SEEM THAT IRAQIS ARE NOW USING BEIRUT TO "FINGER" SYRIA AND PUBLICIZE PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED ACTIVITY ON IRAQI-SYRIAN BORDER.
HOUGHTON

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